

From: "Fran Reidy" <FReidy@town.arlington.ma.us>
To: "hmuise@verizon.net" <hmuise@verizon.net>
Date: 06/02/2020 04:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: Safety concerns at Mass Ave and Appleton

From: "mully@scottmullen.com" <mully@scottmullen.com>
To: DeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, Lenard Diggins <ldiggins@gmail.com>, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Cc: Eals Coalition <ealscoalition@gmail.com>, Phil Goff <philipgoff@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 18:32:50 -0400
Subject: Safety concerns at Mass Ave and Appleton

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Members of the Select Board, Administrator Krepelka, Manager Chapdelaine, Select Board candidates Healy and Diggins:

My name is Scott Mullen and I reside on Henderson St in East Arlington. I write to you today in full support of swift action at the dangerous intersection of Mass Ave, Appleton St, and Appleton Pl (the 'Appleton intersection'). For many years, I worked out of an office at 1173 Mass Ave just down the street and frequently passed through the intersection by car, bicycle and also on foot.

I can say without hesitation that my personal experiences and observations of others there have frequently been harrowing. Often it's a car that doesn't slow for pedestrians in the crosswalk, many of them young students of the adjacent Ottoson School. Also common is a left turning vehicle crossing in front of oncoming traffic like the one that tragically killed Charlie Proctor earlier this month. Something must be done to mitigate the dangers there, and quickly.

Due to the complex nature of the Appleton intersection, I recognize there is no easy fix, and that the ultimate solution may be a couple of years away. In that light, I ask the Select Board to please work with other Town officials to implement a two-phased plan outlined by local planner, Phil Goff:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use a tighter radius and more slowly (*See attached concept plan*)
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report (*attached*), a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Given there is a traffic signal there already, perhaps there is an opportunity to change from a 'blinking yellow/beg button' configuration to a formal red/yellow/green config? Again, the goal in my mind is to make as many immediate interventions as possible to ensure safety while a longer term strategy is outlined and implemented.

Thank you for taking a clear eyed look at this intersection and proceeding as quickly as possible to mitigate the obvious dangers there.

—
Scott Mullen | Henderson St | 781.999.1943

Attachments:

File: [CTPS 2012 Arlington_Memo.pdf](#)

Size:
1285k

Content Type:
application/pdf

File: [Mass Ave-Appleton
Proposal_Goff_200521sm.pdf](#)

Size:
1628k

Content Type:
application/pdf

From: Tom Proctor <proctortc@gmail.com>
To: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us,
SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us,
JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Fri, 29 May 2020 12:41:35 -0400
Subject: Extremely Dangerous Intersection Mass Ave and Appleton: Family of the
deceased

Diane M. Mahon
Select Board Chair

Daniel J. Dunn
Select Board Vice Chair

Joseph A. Curro, Jr.
Select Board Member

Stephen W. DeCoursey
Select Board Member

Hurd, John V.
Select Board Member

Marie Krepelka
Select Board Administrator

Dear Members of the Arlington Select Board,

On Tuesday, May 5th, our son, brother, and partner Charlie Proctor was killed while riding his bicycle by a car making a left turn at the intersection of Appleton Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Charlie was a wonderful person whose absence has left an enormous hole in our hearts, and we want to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening to any more families. We have spoken to the Arlington Bicycle Activist Committee, and have been working with Galen Mook at MassBike, and have been impressed by the actions they have suggested.

We are hoping to install a "ghost bike" in Charlie's memory at the intersection where he died. As we cannot currently gather to have in-person memorials, the physical memorials we can construct are especially important. We hope the town can provide permits for and guidance with the installation of this memorial as soon as possible, as has been suggested by the ABAC.

We also support the improvements to the Appleton Street intersection and the surrounding dangerous intersections suggested by the ABAC. The installation of full bike lanes with green intersection crossing markings on Mass Ave from Richardson Ave to Menotomy Rd would improve the visibility of cyclists on Mass Ave. Further study of more substantial improvements to obtuse angled intersections along Mass Ave, such as protected turn light cycles and geometry changes, will identify acceptable changes that will dramatically improve the safety of these

intersections. With these changes, we believe that a solution can be found that can prevent further deaths at these intersections.

Thank you,

Judy Proctor, Charlie's mother

jcproctor@gmail.com

Ched Proctor, Charlie's father

chedproctor@gmail.com

Thomas Proctor, Charlie's brother

proctortc@gmail.com

Alison Piasecki, Charlie's partner

alison.piasecki@gmail.com

Sandra Voss, Charlie's sister-in-law

voss.sandra@gmail.com

From: Alison Piasecki <alison.piasecki@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 07:38:08 -0400
Subject: Charlie Proctor Meeting Agenda

Dear All,

I am Charlie Proctor's partner, and I was with him when he was killed at Mass Ave and Appleton on May 5. As avid cyclists and residents of Somerville, we frequently rode through Arlington to reach the hills further west, and to return home as we were doing that afternoon.

As cycling is prevalent both for transportation and recreation, I request that you add the incident as an agenda item to your meeting tonight, so we can begin to discuss modification of that stretch of Mass Ave. The streets must be safe for all those on them.

Alison Piasecki
978 760 1925

From: tonkinc@comcast.net
To: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: freidy@town.arlington.ma.us, Daniel Amstutz <DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 06/01/2020 12:27 PM
Subject: Corrected email from ABAC.

To the Select Board:

At the recent ABAC meeting there was an in-depth discussion of the recent fatal crash between a cyclist and a car at the intersection of Mass Ave and Appleton. The ABAC board was present along with some of the ABAC members at large, concerned citizens, the head of MassBike, and members of the bereaved family. As a consequence of this meeting it was voted unanimously by the Committee that I write to you and urge the Town take prompt action to decrease the possibility of future crashes along this stretch of Mass Ave that has long been a difficult area for cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists to navigate without mishap.

To this end we strongly recommend that the Selectboard take a very close look at the proposed plan put forward by former ABAC member and co-chair of EALS, Phil Goff. This plan offers several inexpensive ideas that can provide much needed relief until a more comprehensive and permanent solution can be found. It should be noted that this plan has included the intersections of Mass Ave with Forest Ave and Lowell St, both which are in the same area and have similar issues.

We look forward to hearing from you on this pressing issue.

Yours

Christopher Tonkin

Chair Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

SHORT-TERM Bicycle Safety Proposal at the Mass Ave/Appleton Intersection

Arlington, MA
by Phil Goff
May 21, 2020



Current View Looking West



PROPOSED View Looking West

From: Linda Epstein <lf.epstein@verizon.net>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"jcurro@alumni.tufts.ed" <jcurro@alumni.tufts.ed>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com"
<ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>,
"ealscoalition@gmail.com" <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 16:08:57 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Mass Ave Appleton St. intersection safety measures

Dear Select Board Members,

Please see the attached letter supporting immediate safety measures for the Mass Ave. Appleton St. intersection.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue,

Linda F. Epstein

Precinct 20 resident

May 31, 2020

Re: Mass Ave. Appleton St. intersection safety measures

Dear Arlington Select Board member,

I am writing in support of immediate and long-term efforts to increase safety at the Mass Ave. Appleton intersection where cyclist Charlie Proctor tragically lost his life one month ago.

I am an 18 year Arlington Heights to Cambridge bicycle commuter. I have ridden through that intersection more than 3000 times and have had close calls involving cars turning left from Mass Ave onto Appleton and from cars coming down Appleton who don't come to a full stop. Cyclists are riding far to the right so the sight lines for seeing cyclists coming down the hill are terrible for motorists on all approaches to the intersection.

I fully support:

1. Immediately instituting the recommended short-term solutions proposed by Mr. Phil Goff that include extending and painting bike lanes on both East and Westbound Mass. Ave. and relocating/removing some Eastbound on-street parking.
2. Immediately approve new traffic studies and design plans for permanent intersection changes- As we've witnessed with the E. Arlington project this process can be lengthy so must be started now.
3. Dedicating a Memorial to Charlie Proctor on or near the site of the crash.

Other modifications I would support in the near future:

1. Place traffic calming measures for Westbound drivers turning left so turn becomes more of a right angle and less of a runway.
2. Make Appleton Pl. one way- downhill traffic only and no left turn onto Mass Ave.
3. Move the bus stop beyond the intersection, i.e. more East
4. Trim trees West of the current bus stop. These trees shade the bike lane and make it difficult for Westbound drivers to see cyclists on a sunny day.
5. Include wording on Eastbound bike lane approaching Appleton- SLOW or something to that effect

I implore the Select Board to act swiftly to institute immediate safety measures to prevent further cyclist or pedestrian incidents at this intersection.

Thanks for your attention to this important issue,

Linda Epstein

From: "Waldeck, Anna" <waldeck@g.harvard.edu>
To: "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "ldiggins@gmail.com" <ldiggins@gmail.com>, "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, "townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Sat, 30 May 2020 19:36:25 -0400
Subject: Arlington board meeting agenda - bike crash at Mass Ave. & Appleton

To the Arlington advisory board,

I am writing to ask that the recent bike crash at Appleton & Mass Ave. be added to the board meeting agenda on Monday.

It was very sad to hear the news about my friend Alison Piasecki and her partner Charlie Proctor. This event has shaken our community of friends, all of whom bike regularly on Mass Ave and through Arlington.

Modifying intersections to improve visibility and safety of cyclists would go a long way in preventing events like this, and making us feel safe. I hope that Arlington will choose to support a safe and sustainable bike culture for all of us.

Sincerely,
Anna Waldeck
Somerville Resident

From: Ariel Weinberg <arielw@gmail.com>

To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us

Cc: townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com

Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 14:07:35 -0400

Subject: Appleton/Mass Ave intersectgion

Dear Select Board and candidates,

I'm an Arlington Heights resident who in normal times often commutes by bike and takes my children to school (Arlington Heights Nursery School and Dallin) by bike trailer. I go through the Appleton/Mass Ave intersection regularly and with fear for my life every time. I am horrified but not surprised that someone was recently killed there or that studies going back ten years have been done on this stretch of road with no results.

I see that there is already a letter related to this intersection on tonight's Select Board meeting minutes; please do give this issue serious thought and come up with a plan to reduce more unneeded accidents and deaths at this spot for pedestrians and cyclists, the most vulnerable users.

Thank you,

Ariel Weinberg
205 Spring Ave, Arlington

From: "Amanda M. Zangari" <amzangari@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 15:14:53 -0400
Subject: Cycling improvements on Mass Ave

Hi,

My name is Amanda Zangari. I currently live in Somerville, but my partner and I closed on a condo in East Arlington on Milton Street on May 18. We're going to move in at the end of the month, as soon as the lead paint in our place is abated.

Why did we decide that we had to buy a house in the middle of pandemic, paying tens of thousands over asking for the privilege? Because the house is near the Minuteman, so I can bike safely to Alewife, or nearly directly to my job at Lincoln Lab in Lexington, which is near the Minuteman.

Last February, I got hit by a car riding my bike to Alewife from my apartment in Somerville. The accident occurred on Highland Ave and Willow Ave in Somerville on February 20. I'm alive because of two things, 1. I was wearing a helmet and 2. because the driver come to a complete stop before turning left into me while I was going straight through a green light.

I was encouraged to write to you all because of the death of Charlie Proctor. He died on May 9 while biking down Mass ave and Appleton Street. He was killed by a driver, also trying to turn left. I don't know Charlier or his partner Allison who was also injured, but his accident seems to be under similar circumstances as mine and its ■ sad connection to have. Having lived, I had to write in.

When I wrote to my office's mailing list asking for post accident advice, I learned that about 20 people on the list had experience with collisions on bicycles, and several of them had a similar accident to myself and Charlie—left turning traffic that ignored oncoming bicycles.

I learned from my office's cycling mailing list that you might be discussing this issue today. From that email, I learned that this intersection had been flagged as unsafe nearly a decade ago. It's sad that an accident like this happened when traffic was a fraction of its normal volume. It will always be unsafe unless something changes.

With public transit as a vector for COVID spread, cycling will be a more important method of transit than ever. The Minuteman, while an awesome asset to Arlington, is only as good when the surrounding streets be save for biking. In the winter, many people choose Mass Ave over the Minuteman if they don't have studded tires.

I'm not a traffic engineer or an expert in these accidents, but I do know that slowing down turning traffic is vital for saving lives. Please consider improving the intersection where Charlie died and other similar intersections.

You will never hear about the people who didn't die from improving the intersection, but the value will be priceless.

I'm looking forward to many happy years in Arlington, getting around safely on my bike (and not just on the Minuteman!)

Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,
Amanda Zangari
Soon to be Arlington resident

From: Blaine French <blainef56@hotmail.com>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu" <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>, "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us"
<mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, "townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us"
<townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 17:29:41 +0000
Subject: Fatal crash at Appleton St.

Dear Select Board and Town Officials:

I would like to request that you consider the recent fatal crash and related safety improvements at Appleton St. as an agenda item in today's Select Board Meeting.

I am a resident of Concord MA who enjoys visiting and spending time in Arlington. I have been a pedestrian, cyclist, and driver at this particular intersection many times and can state that it is ■ confusing, dangerous and unpredictable intersection. As a cyclist, I am always nervous and uncomfortable cycling on this particular section of Mass Ave.

Sincerely,
Blaine French

From: Chris Bliss <cdbliss@gmail.com>

To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com

Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 21:30:37 -0400

Subject: Please fix the intersection where Charles Proctor was killed

Hello - I'm an Arlington home-owner and regular bike user. I'm writing to strongly voice support for addressing the traffic and biker safety issues at the intersection of Mass Ave/Appleton St/Appleton Place.

This was not a random accident and I'm concerned that it will happen again. I understand that the intersection was studied in 2012, though few of the recommendations were implemented. I recognize there may be no easy fix; however, the death of a young cyclist should force us to look for solutions again.

I ask that the Select Board work with other Town officials to implement the two-phased plan being promoted by local activists--a short-term plan for risk reduction, and a longer term plan for addressing the root causes of the unsafe area.

Thank you.

Chris Bliss
15a Lanark Rd
Arlington, MA 02476

From: "Contreras Casado, Cristina" <ccontrerascasado@fas.harvard.edu>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu" <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com"
<ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 13:30:15 +0000
Subject: Bike safety as part of todays board agenda!

To the Arlington advisory board,

My name is Cristina Contreras, and I have been an avid biker for the most part of my life. However, as part of the Arlington biking community, I have serious safety concerns that I believe should be addressed to prevent future accidents as we saw a couple of weeks ago. As such I am writing in support of adding bike safety as part of Today's board agenda.
Sincerely

Cristina Contreras Casado

From: Catherine Farrell <clf_scw@hotmail.com>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>, Joe Curro <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>, "JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, "townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, Lenard Diggins <ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 13:10:38 +0000
Subject: Mass Ave./ Appleton St./Appleton Pl.

Dear Select Board,

I am a resident of East Arlington and a member of East Arlington Liveable Streets (EALS). I ride my bike in Arlington to run errands, exercise and attend meetings. I find that Massachusetts Avenue presents safety hazards to bicyclist, and, because of this, I often take alternative routes that I find safer, although they are less convenient.

The recent death of Charlie Proctor, a bicyclist, at Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton, is a tragedy. Arlington needs to prevent any such catastrophes in the future.

I urge the Select Board to work with other Town officials to implement a two-phased plan:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use a tighter radius and more slowly.
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

This is a very stressful time for all of us. I appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Catherine Farrell
76 Park St.
Arlington, MA 02474

From: Christine Fort <christine.fort@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 18:17:37 -0400
Subject: in support of safety improvements to Mass Ave/Appleton intersection

Dear Arlington Select Board members and candidates:

I'm writing to you because the recent death of cyclist Charlie Proctor at the Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street intersection in Arlington hit very close to home for me: Charlie's girlfriend, Alison, who survived the crash, was my neighbor in Somerville for the past year. Alison lived across the hall, and Charlie was a devoted boyfriend, so he was someone I saw quite frequently--often, as he and Alison headed in or out together, on their bikes. It is upsetting and surreal that I will never see him again.

Charlie and Alison had planned to move in together today, June 1, before his life was tragically cut short. For Alison, and in Charlie's memory, I write to you today to express my support for infrastructure improvements that would make that intersection safer for vulnerable road users.

As a cyclist myself, I've ridden through the Appleton/Mass Ave intersection many times. I'm aware that it's a complex intersection for which there is no easy fix, and that the ultimate solution may be a couple of years away. I understand that, which is why I ask the Select Board to work with other Town officials to implement ■ two-phased plan:

In the short term: I believe that with a combination of new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton could and should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Better yet, inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorists to proceed through the intersection more slowly.

In the long term: I believe that, building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin as soon as possible. With public involvement, this could be a year-long process; finding funding, final bid documents and construction could take a couple more years as well. Because of long-term timeline constraints; and because I expect bicycle traffic to increase in the summer, as it always does, I believe that is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Thanks so much for reading.

Best,
Christine Fort
Somerville, MA
617-477-7582
christine.fort@gmail.com

From: Christian Klein <cmqklein@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, Selectman Joseph Curro <jcurro@town.arlington.ma.us>, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, ddunn@town.arlington.ma.us, jhurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: Marie Krepelka <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, Adam Chapdelaine <AChapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 23:13:29 -0400
Subject: [SB] Discussion regarding Bicycle Safety Concerns at Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street

Honorable Board Members,

I am writing to you this evening to request immediate action to improve bicycle safety at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, Appleton Street, and Appleton Court. The recent, tragic death of a cyclist at this intersection unfortunately serves to highlight how dangerous this intersection truly is. As a frequent cyclist who uses Mass Ave, I encourage you in the strongest terms to address this issue.

As a resident of the Heights, when I am coming home on Lowell Street, I will often try to turn right off Mass Ave onto Appleton Place. On several occasions, I have been nearly hit broadside by someone looking to pull out from Appleton Street onto Mass Ave. They see my car slowing with a signal on, they assume I am making the sharp right, and they proceed into the intersection. We both come to a quick stop when they realize I'm not turning sharply, and I see they are misunderstanding the intersection.

A 2012 report from the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization was recently brought to my attention. It notes all of these issues with the intersection and makes several recommendations. To date, it does not appear that any of these recommendations have been implemented. I can appreciate the expense involved, but if a hotel is added along this stretch of Mass Ave, adding many more drivers unfamiliar with the intersection and the care that needs to be exercised, this intersection will only become more dangerous.

Please refer this problem to the Transportation Advisory Committee post haste, and ask them for an expedited review of the intersection.

Thank you for all you do for the Town. I wish you good health.

Christian Klein
54 Newport Street

From: Charlotte Lellman <clellman@gmail.com>

To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, jhurd@town.arlington.ma.us

Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com

Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 09:48:51 -0400

Subject: Please add bike safety to select board meeting agenda

Dear Arlington Select Board members,

I am writing to earnestly ask you to address bike safety in your upcoming meeting. Cyclist Charles Proctor died earlier this month, in Arlington, at a dangerous intersection. There are concrete actions that can prevent similar deaths in the future. Arlington is a great commuter thoroughfare, and there is a lot of great bike infrastructure, from bike lanes along Mass Ave to the Minuteman trail. Please don't leave it at that. There is more work to be done. Making a city safe for bikes decreases accidents and pollution and congestion, and promotes a healthy active lifestyle. Please address this important issue.

Best,

Charlotte Lellman

Cyclist living in Jamaica Plain, MA

From: <cenam@yahoo.com>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu" <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>, "tonkinc@comcast.net"
<tonkinc@comcast.net>, "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com"
<ldiggins@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 18:26:37 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: safe intersections

Good morning,

As a you may be aware a bicyclist, Charles Proctor, was killed in a crash with a motor vehicle on Massachusetts Ave on May 5.

I'd request that the safety of this intersection and those like it be added as an agenda item for today's Select Board meeting.

Although great improvements have been made to Mass Ave in East Arlington those improvements haven't been made to the section that Mr. Proctor died on.

Multiple viable recommendations were made in the 2012 memo titled "FFY 2011 Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Boston Region MPO Intersections: Massachusetts Avenue at Appleton Street and Appleton Place in Arlington". I'm told that there are at least 5 other intersections of concern on Mass Ave with poor sight lines and chaotic lanes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christina Mork
8 James Way
Cambridge MA 02141

From: D Harrington <dharrington@nklabs.com>

To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com

Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 13:49:18 -0400

Subject: Bike Safety.

Hello,

I'm a long time bike commuter and have commuted by bicycle to work since 2004 in Providence RI, Cambridge MA, San Francisco CA, and Arlington MA. I have also bike trekked around the Greater Boston Area including one bike trip years ago from Boston to Montreal over the course of a week. I have experience biking in many conditions in many cities.

When I'm not under lockdown and it is not icy out, I ride my bicycle to work everyday, often with my kids in tow. I obey the law. I stop at traffic lights. I stop at stop signs. I give pedestrians the right of way. I try to ride predictably. I like to ride fast but limit my speed on the bike path, in traffic and while passing parked cars. I'm teaching my kids proper bike safety and to wear helmets. It is also my major source of exercise which should hopefully improve my general health.

I'm an active voting resident of Arlington and bought a home with my family last year.

Please improve road safety at the intersection of Mass Ave and Appleton St where Charles Proctor was killed.

Over the years I've seen more and more bikes on the street. It is a great form of commuting. But it is obvious the roads were not designed for bikes or pedestrians. That can change.

Please work with the town to help fix this issue:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use a tighter radius and more slowly.
- LONG TERM - building off of [the 2012 CTPS report](#), a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Thank you,
-demetri

From: "Diane Manganaro" <dinemango@verizon.net>
To: <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>, <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>,
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>, <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>,
<ldiggins@gmail.com>, <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>, <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 12:00:53 -0400
Subject: Appleton Street Intersection

To the Arlington Select Board:

The recent tragic death of bicyclist Charlie Proctor has once again brought to light the hazardous crossing situation at Appleton St. and Mass Ave. This intersection has been ■ scary one to navigate for years. This intersection is not only ■ hazard to bicyclists and motorists, it is also an area frequented by middle school students, who walk to school.

I am a lifelong Arlington resident and have walked, biked and driven all over Arlington during these years, and am very familiar with the safety hazard posed by this intersection. I have a young nephew who will begin attending the Ottoson Middle School next year—and I am very concerned.

I ask the Board to please address this situation to develop a solution that will improve the safety of motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians as soon as possible, before we see another useless tragedy result from this dangerous intersection.

I ask that you consider this two-phase plan recommended by the East Arlington Livable Streets Coalition:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use ■ tighter radius and more slowly (*See attached concept plan Phil developed showing how bike lanes can be striped*)
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Diane Manganaro
8 Brattle Lane
Arlington, MA 02474

From: E Buschert <ebuschert@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, ealscoalition@gmail.com
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 21:26:55 -0400
Subject: Mass Ave @ Appleton safety

Dear Select Board Members,

I, a resident of Arlington, am writing to urge you to take prompt action to make the intersection of Mass Ave, Appleton St, and Appleton Place safe for ALL road users. A Somerville resident, Charlie Proctor, was recently killed by a reckless driver at this dangerous intersection. This is unacceptable.

There are no perfect quick fixes to this intersection but while longer term solutions are being found striping the bike lane, installing bollards, flex posts, planters, concrete barriers, or whatever else it takes to slow down motor vehicle traffic so that drivers are forced pay attention can save lives.

In these times of uncertainty and pandemic, more people than ever are discovering the joys of walking, biking, scooters, etc. They should be free to do so safely. The streets in this region, I'm often told, were originally rputed and traveled by cows (and presumably pedestrians and horses). There is no reason personal motor vehicle traffic, a relatively novel and unsustainable mode of transport in ■ dense urban area, should be privileged above others and the only safe way to travel. Please actively design and redesign streets and paths to ensure all users' safety.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Buschert

133 Brattle St
Arlington, MA

From: Edward Faulkner <edward@eaf4.com>

To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us

Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 13:05:49 -0400

Subject: Please put road safety on the agenda

Charles Proctor was killed in a crash with a motor vehicle on Massachusetts Ave on May 5. Please add the safety of this intersection and those like it as an agenda item for today's Select Board meeting.

I am a resident of West Somerville and my children and I walk and bike frequently in Arlington. We all benefit by making our region safer for active, low-carbon transportation.

Sincerely,
Edward Faulkner

From: erich ludwig <erichludwig@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, tonkinc@comcast.net, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 11:01:03 -0400
Subject: Improvements in Bike Infrastructure in Arlington

Good morning,

As you are aware, a bicyclist, Charles Proctor, was killed in a crash with a motor vehicle on Massachusetts Ave on May 5. I did not know Charlie, but my friend & colleague was a dear friend of his - so this hits very close to my heart.

I am a resident of Somerville, and often ride my bike to visit friends in Arlington. Most of the time I'm doing that with my family bike and with our kids in the family bike.

I'd request that the safety of this intersection and those like it be added as an agenda item for today's Select Board meeting.

Although great improvements have been made to Mass Ave in East Arlington those improvements haven't been made to the section that Mr. Proctor died on. Multiple viable recommendations were made in the 2012 memo titled "FFY 2011 Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Boston Region MPO Intersections: Massachusetts Avenue at Appleton Street and Appleton Place in Arlington". I'm told that there are at least 5 other intersections of concern on Mass Ave with poor sight lines and chaotic lanes.

Improving bike infrastructure will help keep us all safe on the roads, and will increase the attractiveness of Arlington as a city in which to live and visit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erich Ludwig
36 Berkeley St
Somerville, MA 02143

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Erich Ludwig
+1.617.388.0413 - mobile / WhatsApp
he/him/his
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/erichludwig/>

From: Geoff Birmingham <jumpcuts92@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: ealscoalition@gmail.com, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sat, 30 May 2020 11:19:20 -0400
Subject: Safety at Appleton St/Mass Ave intersection

Fellow Arlingtonians:

It was with great sadness that I read of the death of Charlie Proctor at the intersection of Mass Ave and Appleton St. I actually only learned of it today, thanks to a notice shared by the EALS Coalition.

While upset by this news, I am also not at all surprised. As a parent of a former Ottoson student, I drove through that intersection enough to know the confusion it creates among motorists. I saw students sprinting across Appleton, knowing full well the danger of the situation.

I also have regularly passed through that intersection as a bicyclist along Mass Ave. ***Every single time I travel eastbound as a cyclist***, I pass through with a real sense of anxiety. Drivers come down the slope of Appleton and have to strain to see who's going eastbound! They cause me less dread, however, than the cars going westbound and turning left. I always enter the intersection hyper-vigilant, prepared for ■ westbound driver to make a poor decision, turn left and cut me off.

It's unfortunate that change usually only comes after tragedy. Let's not let Charlie's death be a devastating loss, soon forgotten. At a minimum, let's use it as motivation to improve the safety of the intersection and help ensure it doesn't happen again. I'm sure Phil and Chad have already shared their suggestions with you, but especially the short-term proposal makes complete sense.

- *SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use a tighter radius and more slowly.*
- *LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.*

The marked bike lanes that the town has installed elsewhere along Mass Ave, I'm certain, have dramatically improved road safety. Additionally, I believe Phil's idea to add flex posts in the intersection to help guide traffic better is a very sensible suggestion. We recognize that an effective, long-term solution will take time and money, and that should still be pursued. In the meantime, though, let's make some immediate improvements that will reduce the danger at this location.

All the best,
Geoff Birmingham

From: Guilhem Ribeill <guiribeill@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, ealscoalition@gmail.com
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 15:35:42 -0400
Subject: Appleton Bike Safety

Dear Select Board Members,

I was greatly saddened by the tragic killing of Charlie Proctor by a reckless driver at the Mass Ave/Appleton intersection 3 weeks ago. As a cyclist, driver, and resident of Arlington, I know that this is one of the most dangerous spots in the town for vulnerable road users, and I am writing to you to request that the Town and Select board take immediate action to address safety issues at this intersection.

While I recognize that there is no quick fix to this intersection, please consider immediately striping bike lanes, adding flex posts to better channel motor vehicles turns, and implementing other traffic calming measures. Over the long term, the only solution is to implement the recommendations of the 2012 CTPS safety report and build an intersection that is safe for all.

As we emerge into the new, post-pandemic world, it is becoming increasingly clear that cycling is one of the ways we can reduce gridlock, mitigate the noxious effects of air pollution, and build a safer and friendlier communities. Building out from the resource that is the Minuteman bike path, I hope that you will have the courage to make Arlington a leader in ensuring safe cycling is possible for all of its residents.

Thank you,

Guilhem Ribeill
133 Brattle St. #2

From: Julia Fuller <fuller.juliam@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 12:04:06 -0400
Subject: Addition to agenda for June 1 select board meeting

Dear select board members,

I am writing in support of adding the bicycle crash on May 5, 2020 to the agenda for the select board meeting agenda on Monday, June 1, 2020.

The intersection of Appleton and Mass Ave has a high number of crashes, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists. Additionally, due to the proximity of Ottoson Middle School there are hundreds of people crossing this intersection around the times that the school opens and closes each day. It is also difficult to see through the intersection as a driver when coming down Appleton Street. This makes it hard to tell if there is a bicyclist, pedestrian, or other car until you, as a driver, have nearly entered the intersection. The traffic signals are confusing and can be difficult for drivers to follow, resulting in hard to predict behaviors between drivers.

When not under a stay-at-home order, I regularly use my bike for transportation, to run errands, go to and from my office in Cambridge, as well as for exercise. While there have been improvements to a lot of areas around Boston in recent years, there are still plenty of roadways that fail to create a safe environment for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists to coexist. I have had numerous close calls and one collision with a car while on my bike and know that, at least anecdotally, my friends and coworkers who bike regularly have had a similar experience.

Charlie Proctor, the bicyclist killed in the accident earlier this month, was a longtime friend of mine. We grew up together in CT, learned to sail and race together throughout high school, went on to be teammates on the Tufts University Sailing team, and continued to be close friends as we both pursued our interests in the outdoors such as skiing and rock climbing. Charlie was a truly special person who had a unique ability to get people excited to try new things. It seems like everyone I've spoken to about him has a memory of Charlie pushing them to challenge themselves and learn something new while having fun in the process.

In pursuing challenging outdoor activities, Charlie was always responsible and took care to make very calculated judgments about risk. It's hard to believe that he could safely climb Denali only to be killed going on a routine bike ride less than 20 minutes from home.

Charlie's death has had a big impact on his friends and family and throughout the outdoors community in New England. We are all devastated to have lost him and share the feeling that we owe it to Charlie to improve bike safety in our area so that other people don't have to experience the loss that we are now. The accident on May 5 may feel like it is just one event but there is significant data to show that the intersection of Appleton and Mass Ave is unsafe and could be improved. Please add this crash to the agenda for the select board meeting on June 1, 2020 and move towards a safer roadway system for everyone in our area.

Thank you,
Julia Fuller

Julia Fuller
203-803-7272 | fuller.juliam@gmail.com
www.linkedin.com/in/juliamansfieldfuller

From: Jordon Hemingway <jordonhemingway@gmail.com>

To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com

Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 11:45:19 -0400

Subject: Support for including Appleton and Mass Ave. bicycle accident to select board meeting agenda

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to give my support for including discussion of a recent bicycle accident at the intersection of Appleton St. and Massachusetts Ave. in the Arlington select board meeting agenda on 1 June 2020.

As a close friend of the victims of this accident and as a resident of neighboring Somerville, I am deeply worried and concerned about the lack of bicycle safety that led to this accident. This region is often congested with bicycle traffic, particularly with the coming summer months and will more residents turning to cycling as a means of exercise during COVID lockdown.

It is my hope that future improvements for bicycle visibility and safety on this region of Mass Ave will be implemented and will prevent future injury, suffering, and loss of life. Discussing this topic at the Arlington board meeting will be the first step in achieving this goal. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jordon Hemingway

From: Jock Hoffman <jockhoffman@rcn.com>

To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us

Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 12:36:35 -0400

Subject: Please fix Appleton/Mass Ave safety issue

In the before COVID-19 times, I commuted through this intersection four days a week for 25+ years. On the mornings when school was in session, it was relatively safe, because most drivers are either aware or hindered by traffic and pedestrians, but that's only relative to the extremely dangerous conditions at all other times. I encourage you to implement impediments to westbound, left-turning vehicles, and those who drift down from the Appleton St. stop sign.

Thank you
Jock Hoffman
Arlington

From: Jennifer Litowski <jennifer.litowski@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, Lenard Diggins <ldiggins@gmail.com>, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, Eals Coalition <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 17:27:49 -0400
Subject: Safety at Mass Ave & Appleton St.

Dear Arlington Select Board,

The intersection at Mass Ave. and Appleton St. is a proven danger that needs immediate action to protect our safety. The dangerous conditions have been documented since the CTPS study in 2012. Our failure to act on these recommendations has put people at risk, including our children who attend Ottoson Middle School. Tragically, this resulted in the death of Charlie Proctor earlier this month.

The town of Arlington has to take both immediate and long-term actions. I support the measures recommended by East Arlington Livable Streets:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorists to use a tighter radius and more slowly
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

The Town of Arlington has to take action to prevent another tragedy.

Regards,
Jennifer Litowski

From: "J. Roth" <jrothim@yahoo.com>
To: "SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>, "jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu" <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>, "JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: tonkinc <chris.tonkin@biogenidec.com>, Daniel Amstutz <damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>, "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, "townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com" <ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 21:25:59 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Advocacy for Safer Cycling Infrastructure on Mass. Ave./Appleton St. in Arlington

Dear Board of Selectmen & Town Officials -

I am writing in regards to the unfortunate fatal crash of a motor vehicle that killed cyclist Charlie Proctor in Arlington last month. I understand that this will be discussed tonight.

As a cycling commuter and one who cycles regularly with my family through Arlington and nearby communities, I ask that safer accommodations for cycling be added to this known dangerous stretch of Mass. Ave. I suggest the following general safety improvements be considered for this section of Mass. Ave., as well as for other locations in Arlington:

- (1) Add protected bicycle lanes on this stretch that are separated from traffic and parked vehicles. Protected bicycle lanes could either be bollards or raised curbs that separate motorists from cyclists and walkers.
- (2) Signalize this intersection with a stop light for Mass. Ave., given the volume of cars and unsafe conditions.
- (3) Increase enforcement against motorists driving too fast and unsafely in this area, which endangers cyclists and walkers. Also provide education of motorists about safe passing of bicyclists.
- (4) Lower speed limits for motorists. Studies show crashes between cars and cyclists where car is moving above 20 mph are likely to cause life-threatening injuries to cyclists. Therefore, roads where cyclists must share the road with drivers should have speed limits closer to 20 mph.
- (5) Reduction of on-street parking. On-street car-parking creates very unsafe situations for cyclists, requiring cyclists to take the full lane to safely pass unpredictable cars in the parking lanes. This is an unsafe situation along much of Mass. Ave., including this specific section. Move on-street parking to side streets, not main thoroughfares. Replace on-street parking with more bicycle parking. Studies show that encouraging more cycling provides greater stimulus to local businesses as compared to maintaining predominant access for cars. Cyclists shop more locally, and approximately ten cyclists can park in the same area needed for just one car.
- (6) I ask that you please pass this issue along to the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) and have them work together with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to make recommendations to the Selectboard on improvements to this roadway.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these suggestions!

Jeff Roth (ABAC member, 2008 - 2010)
~ Jeffrey M. Roth, Ph.D ~ 781.316.1736 (h), 781.981.3468 (o), 339.223.1235 (m) ~
~ alum.mit.edu/www/roth ~
~ jrothim_at_yahoo.com; jroth_at_ll.mit.edu ~

From: Kate Byrd <mks.showers@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 08:49:10 -0400
Subject: Letter of Support for Improved Cycling Conditions on Arlington Roadways

Members of the Select Board:

My name is Kate Byrd, and I have been a resident in Arlington for five years. I am writing in support of Ms. Alison Piasecki and Mass Bike's effort to improve bike safety in Arlington.

My husband and I are both avid runners and cyclists. We rented in East Arlington for five years and recently purchased a home in the Brattle neighborhood in large part because of the easy access to the Minuteman Trail we use daily for exercise and commuting. However since first moving to Arlington and purchasing a bike, I have had concerns about the safety of riding on town streets.

I often commute towards Lexington on my bike and was appalled at the Minuteman Trail and Lake St. intersection as it is unsafe, ambiguous, and inefficient for cars, walkers, runners, and cyclists alike. In 2015, I reached out to the Town and was told it was being handled. Five years later, the intersection is nearly identical.

Last summer while commuting home eastward on the Minuteman, I was crossing Mass Ave from the Uncle Sam park in Arlington Center. I was struck from about 8 o'clock as a driver took an illegal right on red coming up Mystic Street. They fled the scene. The police department was quick to arrive, and I was "lucky" to have no head injury or broken bones. I will note I will never lay on my stomach due to shifted ribs and require chiropractic services every 8-10 weeks, despite being a relatively healthy and active 27 year-old. I was also very disappointed in the follow-up response from law enforcement. A social media post requesting any information was the only action taken to find the driver.

With this history, I read with sadness and anger about the accident on Mass Ave and Appleton. It was then revealed that this intersection had been identified as "somewhat alarming" in a 2012 memo from the Boston Regional MPO ([link](#)). I believe this falls into a pattern of slow response and inaction when it comes to taking sizable steps towards improving bike safety on Arlington streets. Improved biking conditions help all citizens by reducing pollution and traffic, opening up parking spots for those who need them, and improving physical and mental well-being through exercise to name a few. I hope as we look forward that prioritizing safety for those on bikes becomes a top priority for the town. Recent occurrences highlight that this is not just a nicety, but rather a matter of life and death for citizens of Arlington and surrounding towns.

(Mary) Kate Byrd
149 Brattle St.
Arlington, MA 02474

From: "Guiney, Kevin" <guiney@fas.harvard.edu>
To: "SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us" <JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com"
<ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 15:12:04 +0000
Subject: Request for improvements in bicycle safety in Arlington

Dear Select Board of Arlington-

In light of the recent death of bicyclist Charlie Proctor in Arlington, I ask that you work with other town officials to make improvements in bicycle safety in our town. As someone who commutes everyday by bike in normal times as well as rides recreationally around town with my family, I see firsthand the dangers that exist for the large number of cyclists that use our town roads and paths. I have also seen the great benefits of initiatives that have taken place East Arlington and in Cambridge. I am also hopeful about the progress made at Lake St and the bike path. Even when riding in my car I am mindful and appreciative of the dedicate bike lines that keep everyone safe and minimize tragedies. I ask that you implement this two part plan summarized by East Arlington Livable Streets.

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use a tighter radius and more slowly.
- LONG TERM - building off of [the 2012 CTPS report](#), a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Thanks for your time and consideration-

Kevin Guiney

19 Eliot Rd

Arlington

From: "Boneschansker, Johan H.L.,M.D.,Ph.D." <JBONESCHANSKER@mgh.harvard.edu>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us" <JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>, "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us"
<mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, "townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us"
<townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com" <ldiggins@gmail.com>,
"michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 16:35:46 +0000
Subject: Pedestrian and bicyclist safety on Mass Ave

Dear members of the Select Board,

I am writing to you about the safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on Mass Ave. I hope that safety improvements, particularly at the intersection with Appleton street will be a priority for the board. Short term improvements include new roadway striping, but I hope you will do everything to get a long term solution to dramatically improve the safety at this dangerous intersection.

Sincerely,

Leo Boneschansker
88 Summer street

From: Lily Lichtenstein <lilstein@bu.edu>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sat, 30 May 2020 21:58:42 -0400
Subject: Monday's Agenda

Good Evening All,

My name is Lily Lichtenstein, I am a friend and roommate of Charlie Proctor, the young man who was killed in a bike accident at the intersection of Mass. Ave and Appleton St. on May 5th. I am writing to you all to ask you to please add his fatal accident to the agenda for the Arlington Selectboard meeting on Monday. I frequently rode my own bike with Charlie, and have never met a safer or kind cyclist. It is incredibly tragic that something awful had to happen for this intersection to be re-examined, but as an honor to Charlie I am asking you to please consider making it safer for all who pass through it. The proposed modifications would increase visibility and safety at the intersection of the crash and five other similarly configured intersections. The hope is that no one else will be harmed due to any of these intersections.

Thank you,
Lily Lichtenstein

From: Lane Zimmerman <lane.zimmerman@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 14:48:49 -0400
Subject: Please build safer cycling infrastructure for our community

Hello,

My name is Lane Zimmerman. I recently moved to Somerville to take an exciting new job and have lived here for nearly one year now. I also lived in Somerville from 2013-2014.

I understand that there will be an upcoming decision to increase spending for bike infrastructure following a local man's tragic death. **Please, vote to spend the money now and in future for the purposes of bike infrastructure.** The benefits of having a community/population use bicycles are numerous: more fitness, less traffic, bike paths are cheaper per man-mile than car roads.

I was excited to move back (and still love living here!) to Massachusetts, and specifically Cambridge/Somerville, because it has always felt to me that the Commonwealth governs in a way that places high value on personal wellbeing. Bicycles are an incredible way for individuals to grow themselves and for communities to grow together. Bicycle infrastructure is a way to provide a safe way for the community to ride.

Please vote to improve cycling infrastructure in our community!

Thank you,
Lane

From: Michael Barry <mikebarry657@mac.com>
To: Maria Krepelka <mkrepeka@town.arlington.ma.us>, Adam Chapdelaine <AChapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>, Len Diggins <ldiggins@gmail.com>, Jack Hurd <jHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>, Michaiah Healy <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>, Steve DeCoursey <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>, Dan Dunn <ddunn@town.arlington.ma.us>, Diane Mahon <dmahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, Joe Curro <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>
Cc: East Arlington Livable Streets <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 17:59:32 -0400
Subject: Request Safety Improvements to Mass Ave/Appleton/Howard St Intersection

Dear Arlington Select Board,

As you all know, there was a recent bicycle fatality at the intersection of Mass Ave/Appleton St/Appleton Place in Arlington Heights. Due to the intersection geometry, grades and poor sight lines this intersection is a safety challenge for all users, pedestrians, drivers and cyclists and I fear that if nothing is done more accidents will come. I myself bike through this intersection on my daily commute and extreme caution is necessary.

What is really disappointing is that the regional transportation planning agency (CTPS) studied safety issues at the intersection in 2012 but few of the recommendations were implemented due to cost issues and engineering challenges. Due to the complex nature of the Appleton intersection, I recognize there is no easy fix, and that the ultimate solution may be a couple of years away. But something must be done now, in the short term to at least improve safety at the intersection to some degree, such as:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorist to use a tighter radius and move slowly, such as in the attached photos.
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well.

Based on that, please, please initiate the short term plan this summer.

Thanks for your consideration,
Michael Barry
mikebarry657@mac.com
Mobile: +1.617.257.2251
32 Kilsythe Rd, Arlington, MA 02476

Michael Barry
mikebarry657@mac.com
Mobile: +1.617.257.2251

Mobile: +1.617.257.2251
32 Kilsythe Rd, Arlington, MA 02476

SHORT-TERM Bicycle Safety Proposal at the Mass Ave/Appleton Intersection

2014-2015, 2015-2016
 by FPA GALT
 2015-2016, 2016-2017



Current View Looking West

PROPOSED View Looking West

Michael Barry
mikebarry657@mac.com.com
Mobile: +1.617.257.2251

From: Matthew De Remer <mderemer@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, tonkinc@comcast.net, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 09:36:00 -0400
Subject: Pls. add the recent Mass Ave Car-Bicyclist crash to today's agenda

Good morning,

As you may be aware a bicyclist, Charles Proctor, was killed in a crash with a motor vehicle on Massachusetts Ave on May 5.

I'd request that the safety of this intersection and those like it be added as an agenda item for today's Select Board meeting.

Although great improvements have been made to Mass Ave in East Arlington those improvements haven't been made to the section that Mr. Proctor died on. Multiple viable recommendations were made in the 2012 memo titled "FFY 2011 Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Boston Region MPO Intersections: Massachusetts Avenue at Appleton Street and Appleton Place in Arlington". I'm told that there are at least 5 other intersections of concern on Mass Ave with poor sight lines and chaotic lanes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Matthew De Remer
East Arlington

From: Misha Sidorsky <misha.sidorsky@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 15:37:58 -0400
Subject: Re: Select Board Meeting Agenda 6/1/2020, Safer Biking

May 31, 2020

From: Misha Sidorsky
50 Langdon St,
Cambridge, MA 02138

To the Members of the Arlington Select Board,

My name is Misha Sidorsky. I'm a 34 year-old resident of Cambridge, and have been living in the Cambridge / Somerville area for eleven years.

I'm writing to you in memory of my good friend, Charlie Proctor, who was killed earlier this month while riding his bike on Mass Ave. in Arlington. This message is also in support of Charlie's partner, Alison Piasecki, who was riding with Charlie that day and painfully witnessed his passing.

We are requesting that the topic of Charlie's death -- specifically the stretch of roadway on Mass Ave. where the accident occurred -- be included in your agenda for tomorrow's select board meeting (June 1, 2020). We're asking that the stretch of Mass Ave without full bike lanes, and at least 5 intersections configured similarly to Appleton and Mass Ave, be modified to improve visibility and safety.

I am an active cyclist and commute by bike from Cambridge to work in Boston, and also regularly enjoy riding my bike through Arlington and Belmont. Since Charlie's death, I have learned there were already [studies](#) dating back nearly 10 years that have highlighted the dangers on this particular stretch of road. I'm not intimately familiar with all the road/bikeway design considerations, but improvements to this intersection (and others similar) feels especially urgent and high priority. The problem is known, well understood and solvable.

Though I am admittedly not one of the most active or outspoken local constituents in Middlesex County (in fact, this may be the first documented request I've written to any members of a Select Board in Massachusetts), I am writing today because I remain heartbroken by Charlie's tragic passing, and have become deeply concerned as I've learned more about the nature of his accident.

Among friends, Charlie was seen as a consummate practitioner of safe outdoor activities. I've trusted him with my life when we recreated in the mountains, and we shared many, many conversations about how to effectively manage our risk while cycling, climbing, and skiing together. Charlie was attentive, careful, and always followed safety principles by the book. I'm confused and shaken by his death.

In a time when safe, sustainable, and accessible biking seems most needed in our local area -- both for environmental and public health reasons -- I currently feel highly anxious and concerned by the thought of myself or friends riding through Arlington. I also fear for other riders who I imagine are less aware of the risks.

I very much appreciate you taking the time to consider this much needed infrastructure improvement.

You can learn a bit more about Charlie [here](#).

Sincerely,
Misha Sidorsky

50 Langon St.,
Cambridge, MA 02138
m: 413.475.4616

From: Mustafa Varoglu <mvaroglu@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, Marie Krepelka <mkkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, Eals Coalition <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 20:27:16 -0400
Subject: Bike Safety on Mass, especially at Mass Ave and Appleton

Dear Select Board,

As a bike commuter to work and for errands around town I often take Mass Ave from my home near Shop and Stop up and down Mass Ave as it's the flattest, most direct route from my house to businesses I frequent. When I want to go to businesses in the heights (Trader Joe's, Walgreens, D'Agostino's, Classic Cafe, Home Taste...) I ride fairly often past the intersection at Mass Ave and Appleton and find it challenging to negotiate as cars are usually traveling above the speed limit there and cars coming from the cross street have to advance far past their stop signs to see oncoming traffic. It's a location that carries more risk than most other parts of Mass Ave. Unfortunately it's not a surprise to hear of the recent bike fatality that occurred at this intersection, as the current design increases risk for everyone, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians without the protection of a car.

I agree with EALS' holistic view of making travel options work for all modes in town, and would ask that their suggested two phase plan to improve safety at this intersection begin to be implemented as soon as possible.

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorists to use a tighter radius and more slowly.
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Sincerely,
Mustafa Varoglu
26 Shawnee Rd, Arlington

From: Noam Reuveni <nicenoam@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, tonkinc@comcast.net, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 11:54:01 -0400
Subject: Cyclist Safety in Arlington

Good morning,

As a you may be aware a bicyclist, Charles Proctor, was killed in a crash with a motor vehicle on Massachusetts Ave on May 5.

I'd request that the safety of this intersection and those like it be added as an agenda item for today's Select Board meeting.

Although great improvements have been made to Mass Ave in East Arlington those improvements haven't been made to the section that Mr. Proctor died on. Multiple viable recommendations were made in the 2012 memo titled "FFY 2011 Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Boston Region MPO Intersections: Massachusetts Avenue at Appleton Street and Appleton Place in Arlington".

I understand there are at least 5 other intersections of concern on Mass Ave with poor sight lines and chaotic lanes. As a cyclist who commutes through Arlington and uses Mass Ave for recreation, this is truly terrifying, and is of great concern.

Please allow some progress to come from Charles Proctor's unnecessary death and take up this topic for discussion. Thank you for your consideration,

Noam Reuveni
15A Allston Terrace

From: Nitin Sonawane <nitin.sonawane@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, tonkinc@comcast.net, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, senateoffice@willbrownsberger.com
Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 21:08:24 -0400
Subject: Fatal bicycle crash



Hello,

As a you are no doubt aware a bicyclist, Charles Proctor, was killed in a crash with a motor vehicle on Massachusetts Ave on May 5.

I would like to request your continued attention to improving the safety of our roadways for pedestrians and bicyclists. As ■ resident of neighboring town of Belmont, I routinely bike into and around Arlington with my kids and am shaken by the news of this tragic accident.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nitin Sonawane
137 Chilton St,
Belmont MA 02478

CC: Senator William Brownsberger

From: "Ozzie Street (GB-A)" <ozstreet@gordonbrothers.com>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>, Joe Curro -
<jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, Diane Mahon - <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, Dan Dunn -
<DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>, John Hurd - <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us" <townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, "ldiggins@gmail.com"
<ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 00:48:44 +0000
Subject: Arlington Select Board Meeting - Charlie Proctor

Hi All,

I hope this note finds you all well and making the most of the current pandemic and its many limitations. I write to you in advance of your meeting tomorrow to express my hope that the committee is able to consider the issue of bike-friendly modifications to Mass. Ave. in the wake of the passing of Charlie Proctor. As I am sure you all know Charlie was a wonderful person, friend and son that deserved better than the fate dealt to him on May 5th. I hold Charlie, his family, his girlfriend and our network of friends very close to my heart and hope that this incident will inspire action that is overdue.

I am a lifelong Massachusetts resident and currently reside in Somerville. I love this state and returned home after college in North Carolina because I know the people of Massachusetts, including my life-long friends from Arlington, to be thoughtful, caring and reliable. I am sure you can understand my disappointment when I read the 2012 report highlighting the dangers of the intersection where this accident occurred. This intersection is both popular and dangerous and warrants expedited and thoughtful changes. Given the current state of decreased travel I am afraid there is no better time to make this impact than now.

Best,

Ozzie Street
Senior Appraiser, Retail Valuations
[Gordon Brothers](#)
office 617.422.6531
follow us on [LinkedIn](#) & [Twitter](#)

From: Pam DiBona <padibona@me.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, Eals Coalition <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 30 May 2020 13:57:24 -0400
Subject: Improving bicycle safety on Mass Ave

Dear Members of the Arlington Select Board:

We write with deep concern about the ongoing hazards experienced by bicyclists riding along Mass Ave, especially in light of the recent death of Charlie Proctor at the intersection of Mass Ave and Appleton Street. This tragedy could have been prevented with better sight lines and warning markings for drivers who have become too used to cutting the corner at this intersection.

With the Commonwealth opening up more and more, we will no doubt see a resurgence in road traffic, both cars and bicycles. We urge you to take up and implement the reasonable recommendations made by the East Arlington Livable Streets Coalition for immediate improvements, and to initiate a study for longer-term changes to that intersection in particular.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Pam DiBona
Adam Gerberick
53 River Street

From: Philip Goff <philipgoft@hotmail.com>
To: "SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu" <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us"
<DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us" <DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Marie Krepelka <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, 'Adam Chapdelaine'
<townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us>, Chad Gibson <ealscoalition@gmail.com>, "ldiggins@gmail.com"
<ldiggins@gmail.com>, "michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com" <michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 14:52:12 +0000
Subject: Bicycle safety improvements needed at Mass Ave/Appleton and elsewhere

hello esteemed members of the Arlington Select Board, I hope you are well doing well during these unprecedented times.

I am writing today to express my concern for the safety of road uses, especially bicyclists, at the intersection of Mass Ave and Appleton Street. The tragic fatality of a bicyclist there in early May was not an aberration. It was not a random, unfortunate accident because the rider just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Everyone in Town knows that the awkward geometry, grades and hidden sight lines make this intersection dangerous for everyone: pedestrians, drivers and motorists. Most exposed to danger are bicyclists heading east who may not always be visible to westbound motorists taking a left onto Appleton. This is what caused the death of Charlie Proctor, and the many near misses that bicyclists encounter regularly at this intersection.

One primary problem is that motorists are currently able to take a sweeping left turn, at-speed, to head up the hill. They too-frequently make a split-second judgement about the gap available, and can easily miss bicyclists coming in the opposite direction, especially if the rider is in the "shadow" of an adjacent SUV or pick-up truck. Something must be done to regulate how motor vehicles take a left turn, either with a complete traffic light with left turn signal, restrictions on left turns entirely, and/or median island or something in the center of the roadway that forces motorists to take a more calculated, slow and deliberate left turn at a tighter radius. These are the solutions that must be studied by transportation designers and traffic engineers. **Given possible costs for a reconfigured intersection, a solution may be a few years away...as such, I recommend that the planning work begin immediately by TAC with support from ABAC, the Planning Department and others.**

The other primary problem is that bicyclists are not only less visible at this intersection, but face a series of hazardous intersections along Mass Ave from Brattle Square up to Arlington Heights. Ironically, this challenging segment of Mass Ave is the longest in Town without designated bike lanes. The shared lane marking do very little to guide bicyclists to ride in the correct position and do virtually nothing to warn motorists to the presence of bicyclists in the roadway, especially at the awkward series of Mass Ave intersections: at Lowell, at Appleton and at Forest/Burton. **The relatively simple, relatively inexpensive solution is to connect the bike lanes that currently lie west of Lowell St and east of Brattle Square.** Proper demarcation of the bike lane with bright green pavement markings (as seen in Arlington Center) will help improve

navigation for cyclists and increase awareness of cyclists by motorists at the trickiest intersections.

Placing bike lanes in this stretch will also reduce the dangers of "dooring" for bicyclists, which is a recurring problem where the shared lane markings have been installed. The new bike lanes desperately needed on Mass Ave will have some impact on on-street parking, though ■ strategic plan would minimize parking loss, especially when adjacent to businesses that rely on parking for customer access. The bike lanes should not only be considered in the longer-term planning described above, but should be designed and installed as ■ short term improvement as soon as possible. **Striping the bike lanes this summer would be an appropriate response to the fatality, with the goal of fixing the Mass Ave/Appleton intersection for ALL road users in a 3-5 year time frame.** (Note: this was exactly the approach made by the City of Cambridge after the 2016 fatality of a bicyclists in Inman Square. In less than a year, the City instituted a ban on left turns and striped green bike lanes through the intersection. Now, four years later, construction has commenced on the redesign that will improve safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists.)

I commend the work the Town has done to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and accessibility in the past ten years. Mass Ave, however, is still a glaring safety problem for pedestrians and bicyclists. We should aspire to never have a vulnerable user ever killed again on the Town's premier street. Following the recommendations above will take us one big step closer to meeting this goal.

thank you,
Phil Goff
TMM Pct 7
94 Grafton Street

From: Parke Wilde <parke.wilde@gmail.com>
To: jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, EALS Coalition <ealscoalition@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 11:52:49 -0400
Subject: In support of changes to Appleton Street and Mass Avenue

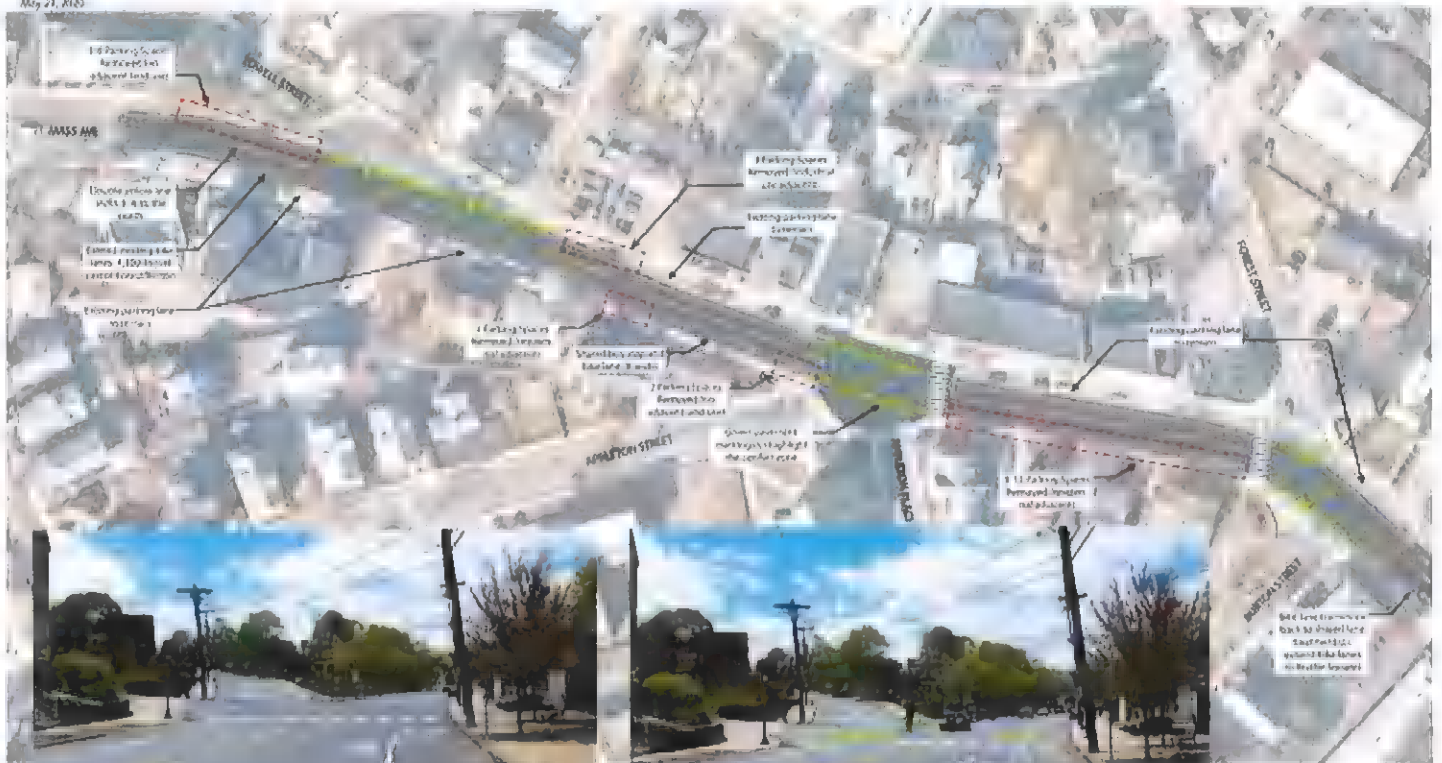
Hi friends on the Select Board. I was so sad to read about the cycling death and injuries and Appleton Street and Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington. Such a tragedy. I always have feared that intersection. Perhaps we all have. I have been reading emails from Mass Bike and East Arlington Livable Streets about this, and they make a lot of sense. They propose two steps: (1) short term change in lane markings, and removal of a couple parking spaces, and (2) proper study building on a 2012 report. Phil Goff's illustration of the short term change is really compelling. Truly drivers do not really want to kill people, but, to be safe, they need a visual signal of the "conflict zone". The green stripes in Phil's attachment look like a great idea. Take a look and see for yourself. Thanks for all you do to keep transportation in Arlington effective and safe! Best, Parke (24 Amherst St.)

--

Parke Wilde
Professor
Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University
150 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02111
617-636-3495 (voice), 339-368-2975 (cell), parke.wilde@tufts.edu
Book and blog: www.usfoodpolicy.com

SHORT-TERM Bicycle Safety Proposal at the Mass Ave/Appleton Intersection

Arlington, MA
 by Phil Goff
 May 21, 2023



Current View Looking West



PROPOSED View Looking West

From: "Manohar, Sandhya" <smanohar@g.harvard.edu>
To: sdecourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sat, 30 May 2020 18:45:19 -0400
Subject: Adding bike crash at Appleton and Mass Ave to Monday meeting agenda

Hi all,

I'm ■ friend of Alison Piasecki and the late Charlie Proctor and a cyclist who lives in the Somerville/Cambridge area. I'm writing to implore you to add the accident that killed Charlie to your meeting agenda on Monday. It is imperative that this is addressed since it is only time before another tragic accident occurs at this and other poorly set up intersections-- particularly now that more folks are biking due to the riskiness of public transportation during the covid-19 era. Please make this a priority for discussion and action.

Sincerely,
Sandhya Manohar

--

Sandhya Manohar

PhD Candidate
King Lab | Department of Cell Biology
Harvard University

From: Sean Murray <smurray.buzz@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 19:31:17 -0400
Subject: Appleton/Mass Ave Intersection Concern

All,

I'm Sean Murray, a resident of North Cambridge less than 200 yards from Arlington. I'm writing to express my hope that the Monday meeting of the select board meeting can address the dangerous intersection at Appleton and Mass Ave. I read about the tragic death of a young man at this intersection a couple weeks ago, and was horrified to find that he was my friend, Charlie Proctor. I am also a cyclist, and have encountered several incidents at this intersection that were not quite "near-misses", but resulted cars and bikes having to execute hard brakes and swerves. I think the safety of the entire community would be improved if a discussion of how to improve visibility and safety of this intersection, and ones like these.

Thanks for your time

Sean

From: "Diane Mahon" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>
To: "Fran Reidy" <FReidy@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: tlgrove@mit.edu
Date: 06/02/2020 06:20 AM
Subject: Fwd: Request to discuss the Appleton Street/Place - Mass Ave. intersection

From: Timothy L Grove <tlgrove@mit.edu>
To: "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 19:49:15 +0000
Subject: Request to discuss the Appleton Street/Place - Mass Ave. intersection

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Dear Diane,

My former student at MIT, Alison Piasecki asked that I send a personal communication to members of the Select Board to discuss the intersection where Charlie Proctor was killed by an automobile on May 5th. Alison was riding with him at the time.

We all know that is a dangerous intersection, and it really is beyond time to do something about it. I am a bicycle commuter and have used a bicycle to commute back and forth to my work at MIT for ~41 years for 7-8 months a year (the snow keeps me off the road from December till April), but I live on Menotomy so, I don't have to deal with that intersection on ■ bicycle, but in a car it is a dangerous place.

I was so happy when we finally got bike lanes on Mass. Ave. Makes things so much safer for all, and I was really surprised how much it improves driving etiquette for those in car. If we can make that intersection safer for all, that would be great.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,

Tim

Timothy Grove
Robert R. Shrock Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
54-1220
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-253-2878 - office
617-253-7102 - fax
tlgrove@mit.edu

From: "Thouis (Ray) Jones" <thouis@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, Marie Krepelka <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 12:22:34 -0400
Subject: Please fix intersection of Mass. Ave. and Appleton Street

To the Select Board,

I'm writing to urge you to take immediate (as well as long-term) action to improve safety at and around the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Appleton Street. This intersection is unsafe for almost all users, but particularly pedestrians and cyclists, with the death of Charlie Proctor being only the most recent evidence.

This intersection is heavily used by a large number of young students going to Ottoson, and I fear that it's only a matter of time until another death or serious injury occurs there.

I urge the Board to take immediate action to improve this intersection. I also urge you to expedite longer term improvements, such as those suggested in the 2012 CTPS recommendations, e.g., realigning the geometry of the intersection to shorten crossings and improve sight lines. In addition, a left-on-green only signal would help a repeat of the crash that killed Charlie Proctor.

Thank you,
Thouis Jones
51A Wyman Terrace, Arlington

From: Tyler Mackey <tjmackey@mit.edu>
To: "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 16:06:09 +0000
Subject: Please add Appleton/Mass Ave bike fatality to Select Board meeting agenda

Dear Ms. Mahon,

As a frequent cyclist on Mass Ave and an Arlington resident, I would like to request that the recent fatal bike crash at Appleton and Mass Ave to be added to the select board meeting agenda this Monday. I have heard from the partner of Charlie (who died in [this crash](#)) that there are at least 5 intersections on Mass Ave similarly configured to the intersection where the accident occurred, and I would like to petition that this stretch of Mass Ave be modified to improve cyclist visibility.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tyler

Tyler Mackey
74 Magnolia Street
Arlington, MA 02474

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Ristuccia <brian@ristuccia.com>

To: dianemahon@verizon.net

Sent: Mon, Jun 1, 2020 4:20 pm

Subject: Shared / Slow Streets, Mass Ave & Appleton Street [Was: Re: Sidewalk Space for Social Distancing / Suspending Mandatory Sidewalk Use]

Diane,

Thank you for voting to move forward with the Shared Streets / Slow Streets pilot at the 5/18 meeting. Given the results of the pilot, I encourage the board to broadly empower the manager and transportation planner to resume and expand the Shared Streets / Slow Streets program and related measures like lane conversions and temporary sidewalk expansions.

Also, I'm sure you've received or are soon to receive correspondence from the various advisory committees (TAC, ABAC) and advocacy groups like EALS regarding the fatal crash at Mass & Appleton. This area has long been a sore spot on my commute, and over the years I have witnessed several close calls and the aftermath of more than one crash. It is a danger to our most vulnerable travelers and a barrier to kids getting to school safely. I urge the select board to support the installation of quick-build interim remediations in this area of Mass Ave while the town works on design and funding for a more permanent solution.

From: phyllisfenander@aol.com
To: "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>, "freidy@town.arlington.ma.us" <freidy@town.arlington.ma.us>, "amaher@town.arlington.ma.us" <amaher@town.arlington.ma.us>, "lcosta@town.arlington.ma.us" <lcosta@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Sun, 7 Jun 2020 16:47:50 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Charlie Proctor's "Accident"

Dear Diane M. Mahon,

As Chair of the Select Board through this year, you have grave authority to implement change on the streets of Arlington, especially in this case, at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Streets where my nephew, Charlie Proctor, died on May 5th. As his aunt, and sister to his mother, I am devastated, as you would be also.

We hope that all the committees, advisors, engineers, and those who have the power to say "Go" to the reconstruction of that intersection will all work together to quickly draw the plans, implement the necessary lights to stop traffic from killing people on bicycles, or in cars. Please. Too many people have said what a terrible intersection that is, but it was left as a blinking light. There should not be such knowledge of inadequacy for so long in your town.

We have an intersection here in Hanover, NH, that is very similar to the one in Arlington: there are three lights, everyone stops even on Route 120, and waits. At that intersection, there is a Co-op, a gas station, a drive-thru bank, a retirement community, and then the street veering left to the high school and college. It's intricate, and it works. You can do that too. Contact the Hanover administrator, Julie Griffith, if you want to know more.

But please do not let this slide into oblivion and allow more people to be killed. You know what to do. Ironically, Charlie was an engineer and would have solved the problem cleanly. Please do it.

Thank you.
Phyllis C. Fenander

From: Kathy Zeiler <katzeiler@gmail.com>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com, ealscoalition@gmail.com
Date: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 18:04:12 -0400
Subject: We need safety improvements at Appleton and Mass Ave.

Dear Arlington Town Officials:

First, thank you for everything you've done to recognize and respond to the tragedies that occurred in Minneapolis and elsewhere.

I'm writing in response to the recent death of Charlie Proctor at the corner of Appleton and Mass Ave. I live on Lakeview Street in Arlington, and I ride my bike regularly on Mass Ave. I'm writing to ask that action be taken in both the short term and long term to improve the safety at Appleton and Mass Ave. I understand that this intersection has been studied in the past, and that improvements were shelved due to cost projections and engineering challenges. I also understand that a solution might take some time to work out. I'm writing to voice my strong preference for the following actions:

- **SHORT TERM** - With new roadway striping and modest restrictions on parking and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton could be (and should be) extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorists to use a tighter radius and move more slowly through the intersection.
- **LONG TERM** - Building off the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon.

A traffic study and design plan could easily be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could take a couple years beyond the planning year. **Based on this timing estimate, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.**

I appreciate your consideration. I hope you and your families are well during this difficult time.

Thanks, Kat

--

Kat Zeiler
17 1/2 Lakeview St
email: katzeiler@gmail.com

From: Sara-Mai Conway <saramai.conway@gmail.com>
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 06:39:09 -0500
Subject: Re: intersection on Mass Ave/Appleton St/Appleton Place

To Whom it May Concern;

On May 5th my cousin Charlie Proctor was killed while riding his bicycle through the intersection on Mass Ave/Appleton St/Appleton Place, a notoriously treacherous intersection for all road users, including children crossing to the Ottoson School. The intersection geometry, the grades and poor sight lines all create challenges for pedestrians, drivers, and especially bicyclists heading east.

This happened just prior to Mother's Day and his 28th birthday.

Charlie was killed while riding home to Somerville (eastbound) when the westbound motor vehicle turned left and slammed into him, killing him and injuring his girlfriend.

This was not a random fluke "accident" unlikely to happen again. We all know that the Mass Ave/Appleton intersection is dangerous. The regional transportation planning agency (CTPS) studied safety issues at the intersection in 2012 but few of the recommendations were implemented due to cost issues and engineering challenges. **The time is ripe for the Town to get serious about improving the Mass Ave/Appleton intersection (including the approaches) for bicyclists and other road users!**

Due to the complex nature of the Appleton intersection, I recognize there is no easy fix, and that the ultimate solution may be a couple of years away. In that light, I am asking the **Select Board to work with other Town officials to implement a two-phased plan:**

SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorists to use a tighter radius and more slowly

LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

My family and I thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter,

Let's make this intersection safe for all users!

--

Sara-Mai Conway

From: Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>
To: achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us,
SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, LDiggins@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us,
DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 12:24:52 -0400
Subject: Design Review Committee for Mass Ave/Appleton

Thank you for discussing the tragic bicycle accident at this intersection at the June 8 Select Board meeting, and for taking steps to study the situation further.

As a nearby resident on Peirce St., I must use this area frequently, and I have experienced many close calls. A comprehensive traffic review is long overdue, and both short-term and long-term changes are needed to address bicycle, pedestrian and vehicle usage.

I would urge you to expand the scope of the review to include the entire Mass Ave corridor from Forest/Burton Streets through the equally difficult V intersection at Lowell St. A change at Appleton to address this particular bicycle incident is only one part of the overall problem.

For the committee, I would also urge inclusion of someone from the Ottoson School, and/or perhaps one of the crossing guards who has first-hand knowledge of the difficulties at the intersection. Although school is not in session now, school-related car and pedestrian activity is also a critical issue for the entire corridor and adjacent streets.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ann LeRoyer
12 Peirce St.
TMM Precinct 17